Claims

1. A method of transmitting bursts in a communications network, the method comprising:

providing data for transmission;

providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and

forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising:

transmitting said first set of bursts via a first channel, and

transmitting said second set of bursts via a second, different channel.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, comprising:

providing a first parameter for indicating a timing offset between a first, earlier burst comprising at least some of said transmission data and a second, later burst comprising further transmission data;

providing a second parameter for indicating a timing offset between a third, earlier burst comprising at least some of said FEC data and a fourth, later burst comprising further FEC data;

forming said first burst including said first timing parameter and

forming said third burst including said second timing parameter.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein:

said at least some of said transmission data comprises some of said transmission data; and

said further transmission data comprises some more of said transmission data.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein:

said at least some of said transmission data comprises all of said transmission data; and

said further transmission data comprises additionally provided transmission data.

6. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, comprising:
said at least some of said FEC data comprises some of said FEC data; and
said further FEC data comprises some more of said FEC data.

7. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, comprising:
said at least some of said FEC data comprises all of said FEC data; and
said further FEC data comprises some additionally provided FEC data.

8. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 7, comprising:
dividing said first burst between a first set of packets;
identifying each of said first set of packets with a first identity;
dividing said third burst between a second set of packets; and
identifying each of said second set of packets with a second identity.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said first and second identities are the same.

10. A method according to claim 8 or 9, comprising:
dividing said second burst between a third set of packets; wherein providing said first timing parameter comprises:
specifying a time until a start of a first one of said third set of packets.

11. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 9, comprising:
dividing said fourth burst between a fourth set of packets; wherein providing said second timing parameter comprises:
specifying a time until a start of a first one of said fourth set of packets.

12. A method according to any one of claim 8 to 11, comprising:
preparing service information; and
including said second identify in said service information.

13. A method according to claim 12, comprising:
including said second identity in a descriptor; and
including said descriptor in a table forming part of said service information.

14. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 13, wherein said transmission data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method comprises:
placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a first set of sections.

15. A method according to claim 14, comprising:
including said first timing parameter in at least one of said first set of sections.

16. A method according to claim 14 or 15, comprising:
calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said first timing parameter and
including a respective timing parameter in each of said first set of sections.

17. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 16, wherein said FEC data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method comprises:
placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a second set of sections.

18. A method according to claim 17, comprising:
including said second timing parameter in at least one of said second set of sections.

19. A method according to claim 17 or 18, comprising:
calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said second timing parameter and
including a respective timing parameter in each one of said second set of sections.

20. A method according to any preceding claim, comprising:
providing a first parameter for identifying a burst comprising at least some of said transmission data;
providing a second parameter for identifying at least one burst comprising FEC associated with said at least some of said transmission data;
forming a first burst including said first identifying parameter and
forming a second burst including said second identifying parameter.

21. A method according to any preceding claims, comprising:
labelling at least one burst of said first set of bursts with an identifier; and
labelling at least one burst of said second set of bursts with a corresponding identifier.

22. A method of internet protocol datacasting over a digital broadcasting network according to any preceding claim.

23. A computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing data processing means to perform the method according to any preceding claim.

24. A computer readable medium storing a computer program according to claim 23.

25. A system of transmitting bursts in a communications network comprising:
providing data for transmission;
providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;
forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and
forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

26. A network element comprising:
means for providing data for transmission;
means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

means for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and
means for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

27. A multiprotocol encapsulator comprising:
an input for providing data for transmission;
a processor for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;
a processor for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and
a processor for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

28. A terminal for receiving bursts from a communications network comprising:
means for receiving a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and
means for receiving a second set of bursts comprising forward error correction (FEC) data for said transmission data.